



MONTEREY NEWS

February 2001
VOLUME XXXI Number 2



The Town

Special Town Meeting

A special Town Meeting has been scheduled for Friday, March 2, 2001, at 7:00 p.m. at the Firehouse to address the petition to establish a Board of Health for the Town of Monterey separate from the Selectboard. If the separate board is approved at this meeting, it would be composed of three members to be elected for terms of three years each, except that the initial election, which would be held on the day of the annual Town Meeting,

Saturday, May 5, 2001, would be one member for one year, one member for two years, and one member for three years. (See related article on p. 3.)

Annual Town Meeting

Articles to be included on the Warrant for the annual Town Meeting on May 5 must be submitted to the Town Hall by 3:30 p.m. on Friday, March 9.

The Monterey General Store

Lewis Scheffey and Maynard Forbes of the Monterey General Store and Brian

Snyder of Gould Farm have announced plans to transfer ownership and operation of the Monterey General Store to Gould Farm in the near future. Gould Farm plans to operate the General Store in the same tradition — to continue providing top quality goods and services to the Monterey community as it has for the last 221 years. (See related story on p. 3.)

Two Town Mainstays Retiring

Walter Parks, Monterey's Postmaster and cheerful purveyor of stamps, has announced that he will be retiring on



Glynis Oliver

Snow-covered Lake Garfield as seen from Route 23

June 15, 2001, after forty-two years in the Post Office.

Also, Harry Gustafson, longtime assessor for Monterey, has announced that he will be retiring on June 30. A new assessor will be appointed by the Board of Assessors.

Snow Removal and Road Salt

The Highway Department reports that nine hundred tons of salt have been used so far this winter to keep Monterey roads clear of snow and ice. More salt is being used because of people's desire to have clear roads.

False Alarms

Many property owners in Monterey have installed alarm systems that automatically dial or use a private service to dial the emergency number of the Police Department when the alarm is triggered. While the Police Department has not been plagued with false alarms, there is an average of one false alarm a week. It has been the policy of the Police Department to work with the property owners to determine the cause of the false alarm and correct the condition to prevent future false alarms. If the condition is not corrected, the Selectboard can impose fees

of \$100 for the second false alarm and \$200 for the third false alarm. The Selectboard also has the right to revoke the alarm system permit after the third false alarm within a twelve-month period. Property owners with alarm systems should realize that an automatic police response is a privilege not a right and should not be abused.

Highway Work and Independent Contractors

Roger Tryon met with the Board to express his concerns regarding the outsourcing of Highway Department work to independent contractors. Tryon stated that the Town would receive better value if most of the work was not given to a single contractor, as he claims is now the case.

In another matter, Tryon, the Town's Tree Warden, described the current arrangement with Massachusetts Electric for dealing with questions of liability in performing tree work around utility poles.

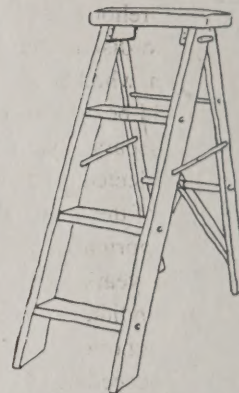
Library Trustee Needed

The Monterey Library Trustees are looking for someone to fill the vacant Trustee position created by the resignation of Donna Trumbull, who has moved. If you are interested in serving or know anyone who might be, please contact Anne Makuc at the Library (528-3795) or Trustee Chair Will Marsh (528-4347).

Correction

Apologies to everyone who has been spending a lot of time thinking about what color to paint the Town Hall after the handicap barrier removal project is completed. It is going to remain white. This decision was made because the building was painted only three years ago and does not need to be repainted yet.

— Suzanne Hoppenstedt



Library Seeks Bids for Knox Wing Repairs

The Monterey Library is seeking bids from licensed contractors for repairs to the General Knox Museum wing. Bid packages are available at the Monterey Library during regular library hours or from Town Secretary Bonnie Jurgenson at the Town Hall.

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Special Town Meeting Set for March 2

As a result of several petitions circulated throughout the Monterey community, 86 registered voters requested that an item be placed on the warrant for the annual Town Meeting which would establish a Board of Health separate from the Selectboard. A special Town Meeting will be held at the Firehouse on Friday, March 2, at 7 p.m. to discuss this issue and then to vote on whether or not a separate board should be established. If the vote is yes for a separate board, then its members will be elected in the Town Election on the day of the annual Town Meeting, May 5. The normal term for this board will be three years, but in this year's election, the candidates would run for staggered terms of one year, two years, and three years; in succeeding elections, one seat would be up for election each year, and candidates would run for a three-year term. This would provide continuity on the future board similar to the present Selectboard, Board of Appeals, Finance Committee, and Planning Board.

A similar request was voted down at the 1998 Town Meeting. There appears to be both strong support and strong opposition to the suggestion of separating the Board of Health from the Selectboard. It is important that as many voters as possible attend this special Town Meeting to express their views and ultimately vote this idea up or down.

— Dean P. Amidon



Monterey General Store to Have New Owner

Our decision to transfer ownership of the Monterey General Store to Gould Farm, after almost twenty years, is based on a number of factors. First of all is our desire to maintain this traditional town asset for the benefit of the community, and to continue local control and management while utilizing many synergies between Gould Farm and the Monterey General Store.

This also makes it possible for Gale and Maynard to move their lives in a

different direction, after a transition period that will bridge this change. We greatly appreciate the hard work and good ideas that the Forbeses have contributed while providing this service to the town.

Many people have worked in the store, for the store and on the store as it has become a better store over these many years. We thank them all for their contributions and are confident that Gould Farm will bring it along as an integral, and increasingly important resource as future years unfold.

— Joyce and Lew Scheffey

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From the Meetinghouse ...

My first class toward my Master of Divinity degree starts January 31. It's at Andover Newton, in Newton Centre, outside Boston, so I'll have a long commute every Wednesday. Maybe I'll get the Bible on audio.

The class is on Hildegard of Bingen, an uppity woman from the twelfth century who was a monastic, a herbalist and healer, a composer, a poet, a painter, and founder of two women's religious communities. As I learn more about her, I'm sure she'll be appearing in this column again. She found God in so many places, and in such concrete ways.

Concrete things are the surest way to God, for me: a garden, sharing a meal, live music, silence, someone's hand. I suppose this is my way of touching a God who, otherwise, I could not touch or see or smell. God is present to us in all the pieces of the world, all the pieces of the universe. I believe in God because I can't get away from amazement. There's a song

by the Indigo Girls: "Everywhere I turn all the beauty just keeps shaking me."

Matter helps us understand holiness: a church is built out of wood and cement; we make art from paint, thread, and stone; we make music from wood, leather, and horsehair; human bodies—protein and water—can sing and meditate. The spiritual and the physical meet. And matter itself reminds me of the Spirit: it is made of atoms, part sturdy nucleus and part cloud of uncertain electrons. We are centered, but we are also dancing.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the season of Lent. Lent is the Christian preparation for Easter; we observe seven weeks of quiet in imitation of Jesus' forty days in the wilderness, where he prepared for his ministry. For Ash Wednesday, which falls on February 28 this year, the church is hosting a pancake dinner at 6 p.m., and then a service of ashes, to mark our humbleness and our regret for things we have done wrong.

We are also happy to announce the performance of actor and playwright Wallace Shawn's *The Fever* on Sunday, February 18, at 7 p.m. in the church basement. Admission is by donation. *The Fever* is a one-man show, and will be performed by Monterey resident E. Z. Pine. An American wakes, trembling, sick, and alone, in a hotel room in a poor country, and ruminates on the connection between himself and those who are serving him. The performance is a fund-raiser

Road Salt & the Environment

Nine Hundred Tons. This is the amount of salt the Monterey Highway Department has used so far this winter (see p. 2). This is a number we should all think about and question what it is doing to our lakes, streams, and trees. Until recent winters, Monterey used less salt and more sand on the roads, but now more salt is being used because people insist upon totally clear roads. Wouldn't it be better for the environment, the town's budget (salt is much more expensive than sand), and all of us living here if people would just slow down and expect some snow and ice on the roads during the winter?

Readers are encouraged to make their opinions on this issue known by writing the *Monterey News*.

— Suzanne Hoppenstedt

to raise money for Heifer Project International, a nonprofit agency that provides farm animals to needy families in this country and all over the world. We hope to have a wonderful gathering of folks and good feeling. Come one and all!

— Pastor Heidi Haverkamp



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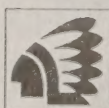
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Remembering

John David O'Connor

John David O'Connor, Sr., passed away at his home in Jupiter, Florida on January 6, 2001. He had been a summer resident on Lake Garfield in Monterey since 1947. He was a former Mayor of Westfield, Massachusetts; former President of the Massachusetts Mayors Association, former President of the Westfield Rotary Club and the Westfield Development Corporation. The family owned and operated the O'Connor Lumber Companies of Westfield, Warwick, Rhode Island, and West Haven, Connecticut, and The Woodshed in Hyannis, Massachusetts. He was a volunteer at the Veterans Hospital in Riviera Beach and at the Palm Beach International Airport as an Ambassador for several years. He also served on the Monterey Board of Assessors.

His father, Charles R. O'Connor, and mother, Doris M. (Dunn) O'Connor, predeceased him.

He leaves his wife of 22 years, AnneMarie (Keefe) O'Connor of Jupiter; his brother, Charles R. O'Connor (wife, Eileen) of Worthington, Massachusetts, and sister, Kathleen Gillis (husband, Thomas) of Monterey, Massachusetts; three daughters: Christine Cramer (husband, Neil) of Santa Rosa, California, Pohar O'Connor of San Mateo, California, Victoria Wirdemann of Hamburg,

Remembering

Virginia N. Cesario

Virginia Naill Cesario, 77, of Blue Hill Rd., a retired professor and librarian at City College of New York, died December 28 at Willowood of Pittsfield.

Born in Hanover, Pennsylvania, on Dec. 9, 1923, daughter of Richard and Lucy Fitz Naill, she received a bachelor of arts degree from the College of William and Mary in 1945, and a bachelor of science degree with honors in library science from Columbia University in 1947.

Mrs. Cesario was employed as the circulation assistant at the City College

Germany; four sons: Thomas R. (wife, Debbie) of North Merrick, New York, Gary C. (wife, Sylvia Galvan) of Southampton, Massachusetts, (John) David of Plymouth, Massachusetts, Shaen K. of Jupiter, Florida; six grandchildren: Erick and Rafael Biard, Jessica and Julian Cramer, Devin and Emily O'Connor; several cousins, nieces, and nephews, and grandnieces and grandnephews.

Contributions in his memory may be made to: Hospice of Palm Beach County, 5300 East Avenue, West Palm Beach, FL 33407 or Foshay Cancer Center, c/o Jupiter Medical Center, 1240 South Old Dixie Hwy., Jupiter, FL 33458.

Library, City University, New York, from 1947 to 1965; instructor and administrative assistant from 1964 to 1968; assistant professor and assistant chief librarian for public service from 1968 to 1975; associate professor and department librarian from 1972 to 1975; and professor and chief librarian from 1975 to her retirement in 1978.

She was a member of the American Librarian Association, and held various offices within the association. She was also a member of the AAUP, the Library Association at City University, New York, the American Society of Informational Science, and the New York Library Association.

Mrs. Cesario was a member of the New York Library Club, the ACLU, Archons of Colophon, Common Cause, and Phi Beta Kappa. She bought her home on Blue Hill Road in the early 1950s and retired to Monterey permanently in 1978.

She and her husband, Michael J. Cesario, whom she married August 14, 1948, divorced in 1965.

She leaves a brother, Richard Naill of Hanover, Pennsylvania.



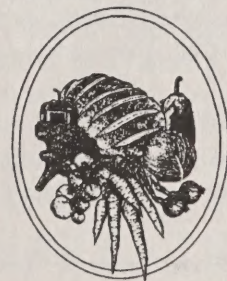
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Senator Says

Housing issues in the small towns of western Massachusetts are different from the problems in larger, urban areas. For instance, local governments and housing authorities in this semi-rural part of the state have little or no professional staff to process grant applications for support of housing initiatives. In addition, a number of the units of public housing in the small towns of this region are "scattered site" units: individual structures, many of which are older houses, as opposed to larger complexes with multiple dwelling units that may be found in cities. It is very expensive to maintain and rehabilitate scattered units.

A new fund in the FY2001 budget will make \$100 million available over the next five years for production and preservation of affordable housing in Massachusetts. To insure that the needs of western Massachusetts are served by the new "Affordable Housing Trust Fund," I have written to the fund administrators to suggest approaches to meeting the unique housing needs of this region:

1. Streamline the process for rehabilitation of vacant public housing in small towns: Last year, the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) committed itself to restoring two vacant units of family public housing in a small town in Hampden County, despite the fact that the local housing authority had not filed an application for funds to renovate the property. I was pleased to see this agency cutting

red tape to benefit a local community, and have encouraged the agency to turn this "can-do" gesture into a standing policy.

2. Spend at least \$10 million of the new fund in small towns of western Massachusetts: I understand that administrators of the fund initially may favor projects that have demonstrated a "readiness to proceed." This could put small towns at a disadvantage again: before the Trust Fund was created by the legislature, there was little reason for local housing advocates to invest time and effort preparing proposals to compete for the very limited resources available for housing rehab or construction. Setting aside \$10 million for Berkshire, Franklin, and outlying Pioneer Valley regions over the five-year life of the trust fund will insure fair geographic distribution of the new housing resources.

3. Rehabilitate houses owned by state agencies for use by qualified local residents: The Department of Environmental Management (DEM) has a Historic Curatorship program for restoration of structures located in state forests and parks. If the DEM partnered with regional non-profit housing agencies, they could draw on a variety of housing programs to make more of these existing homes available.

4. Remove legal barriers in order to create development partnerships: Regional nonprofits or Community Devel-

Rep Rap

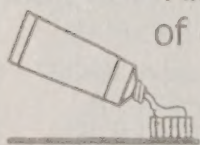
You have just sat down to dinner with your family or you are reading the newspaper after coming home from work and the phone rings. You go to pick it up, and on the other end is a person selling magazines, long distance phone service discounts, or time-shares among other things. It is the industry known as telemarketing. In this age of the ever expanding world of global technology and commerce these phone calls can disturb our home lives and in fact invade our privacy. However the calls are more than a nuisance, as some telemarketing businesses call consumers with fraudulent and costly offers that end up draining the savings accounts of unsuspecting victims, including many senior citizens. In fact, approximately 56 percent of people

opment Corporations (CDCs) could team up with public housing authorities to address maintenance, rehab, and administrative shortfalls. Some vacant scattered-site public housing might be reclassified under different affordable housing programs that can better provide for long-term rehab and maintenance needs.

— Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.

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called by telemarketers are over the age of fifty, and it is estimated that Americans lose \$40 billion a year to fraudulent telemarketers.

The telemarketing industry is a \$400 billion a year business with over four million employees. The top ten telemarketing firms have the technological ability to make 560 calls per second per day and the average American gets two to three telemarketing calls per day. Even with the passage of the 1991 Federal Telephone Consumer Protection Act, the law provides only vague language to empower consumers who receive unwanted phone calls and faxes. Aside from filing a lawsuit, the federal language gives the average person little protection. To respond to this concern I have cosponsored a bill filed this session relative to telephone solicitation and telemarketing standards.

The bill, filed in conjunction with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), aims to reduce unwanted and harassing phone calls by creating a "do not call list." This would be a voluntary list of Massachusetts' telephone customers who do not wish to receive unsolicited telemarketing phone calls. The legislation would prohibit telemarketers



Glynis Oliver

Barrier removal renovation of Town Offices is under way.

working anywhere in the country from calling any person on the list or face a \$2,000 fine. It would also require telemarketers to purchase the updated "do not call list," published quarterly, in order to comply with customers' wishes. The New York State Legislature has recently passed a similar bill and in the last three months 300,000 New York residents have signed onto the "do not call list."

It is a fundamental right to have peace in our own homes free from un-

wanted and harassing phone calls, which in some cases can lead to deceptive offers. The bill I have cosponsored empowers consumers who have had little recourse in stemming telemarketing calls to their homes. I am eager to testify on behalf of this bill when it comes for a hearing before a legislative committee.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at my full-time district office at 243-0289.

— Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins

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Fire Department Training and Annual Activities

When the statistics of the year 2000 went into the record books, there might have been a giant ball falling in Times Square at the stroke of midnight, but the only thing falling in Monterey were snowflakes of the first blizzard of the new year. While this kept the Highway Department busy, over at the Firehouse the computer showed there had been a grand total of 75 emergency calls for the year 2000. Each call is listed by category, and together they tell a story of their own.

Emergency medical calls -----	39
Structure, building fires -----	10
Alarm system malfunctions -----	10
Smoke, gas, odor removal -----	3
False alarms -----	3
Missing persons search -----	2
Smoke report scare -----	2
Trees, brush, grass fire -----	2
Power line down hazard -----	2
Air boat water rescue -----	1
Call answered, no info. -----	1

Looking ahead to the coming year, the Monterey Fire Department may be

required to respond to an even greater diversity of emergencies. As our community and those around us that share the Southern Berkshires continue to grow, the proficiency of qualified firefighting volunteers in dealing with advancing technology and increasing complexity has become a vital factor affecting the safety and well being of residents. This is a national trend, as well. There are no less than 35,000 volunteer fire departments in the United States, consisting of more than two million members, of which only one out of four are paid.

A firemen's newspaper, *First Responder News*, estimates it is not unusual for an active volunteer to average ten hours per week, and at going labor rates this is equivalent to at least a \$1,000 average annual donation to his or her community. Monterey is evidently once again ahead of most towns by having already in place a qualified program and criteria to give its certified volunteers who are residents an equivalent annual tax exclusion.

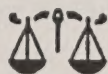
One piece of firefighting equipment on the horizon for all firefighters who do not have access to it now is the training tower. Gone are the days when standing by and pouring water on a burning building donated to the town for training purposes will suffice. To begin with, old buildings often have asbestos or other toxic building materials. Stringent regu-

lations imposed by the Environmental Protection Agency as well as the Department of Natural Resources prohibit burning such materials. After a fire involving these materials, the ashes can sometimes be buried at the site, but more often they must be dug up and removed under stringent conditions to disposal areas far away.

A training tower gives the opportunity for firefighters to learn how to deal with heights and practice working on multistory structures, using ladders; this can involve wall climbing and rappelling under simulated burning conditions provided by propane fires in a section called a "burn room." Here entering a burning structure can be simulated under controlled conditions, allowing the firefighters to practice using protective shields, clothing, bunker pants, head covers, hoods, boots, gloves, and air packs. The tower can also create 1200-degree heat, which may be encountered in confined spaces, such as elevator shafts.

The training tower is constructed with fire resistant panels, so it does not burn down, and can be used over and over again. Actually not a building but a piece of equipment, it can be leased or relocated, and pays for itself after years of repeat drills. Even more important, the location of one in a region, such as the Southern Berkshires, enables it to be shared by a number of fire companies. There is already a Southern Berkshire

CHARLES J. FERRIS Attorney at Law



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Association of Fire Chiefs that meets regularly, and Monterey Chief Ray Tryon is an active member and advocate in developing new training techniques. There is also regular discussion about

forming a Southern Berkshire County Firefighters Association. That these people share a common bond was perhaps best illustrated in the January 18 Housatonic lumber mill fire, as all par-

ticipated together effectively. Monterey's company was in the forefront, preventing the huge ball of flame and heat from spreading to nearby factories and residences, an all-night effort that was successful.

There is a plan in the mind of the fire chiefs of the association, as well as on paper in the Great Barrington Firehouse to purchase, a training tower and install it at an appropriate site, across Route 7 from Monument Mountain High School. And a campaign is being planned to raise most of the funds for this purpose privately, to spare the taxpayers much or all of the expense. If this is achieved, it would be true to the volunteer spirit shown almost every day by our young men and women. So let's count our blessings.

— George Emmons

A.S. Goldfarb

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Of Being No More

*What are we afraid of?
That the love veined in our heart will wither?
Of not seeing the next episode?
Of memories shucked?*

*What is this fear?
That I will not die bravely in the rain
with my helmet on, but on a potty
in a pale green room
accompanied not by my pals,
not by my poor wife,
but by orderlies,
strong orderlies, impatient
with an old man and his stool.*

*I saw his flabby eighty-year-old ass cheeks
as the nurses and orderlies stripped his bed.
This man, my father of massive forearms,
the carpenter's mate on the light cruiser
Marlboro, who could press a 200-pound
barrel over his head.*

*He said to me, before he started babbling,
"Keep the faith."
Keep the faith?
It was as if my father dying
turned into a dead head.
It was as if Jim Anderson coming home,
said,
"Margaret, I'm lost,"
or
saying what? What do you say?*

— Peter Shepley

Brigid's Song:

For Imbolc, the First of February

*The house is frozen shut
against the winter winds,
outside dark branches
waving bare
dark branches waving bare*

*dear heart, and will I live
to free our window
to the dreaming moon
and gentler air
dreaming moon and gentler air*

*to my Sun come laughing home
and to my arms
so fair is he
so very fair
so fair, my god, so very fair!*

— A. O. Howell

Beating A Dead Horse

*If my soul was a dead horse
I would not beat it*

*If this poem was a dead horse
I would not read it*

*If my life was a dead horse
I would not believe it*

— Peter Shepley

St. Valentine's Blues

roses are read
by eyes who know the "ahhh"
and violets are blues
deep within the longing heart
sunrise clouds are pink
chasing a half moon
halfway across the departing dark
painting rubata across the clocks
ecstatic audium is bent string
and wavering throat
a microtonal emote
communing the demands of the heart
commanding abandon
to thump-butt and hip-swing
hollow log rhythm rockers
need thought enter these roses?
analysis the "ahhh"?
need rationale be called to testify
on the moon's behalf?
formulate the "omm"?
beauty so bold
beauty so mundane
they will church and school
the eyes and ears
right out of your sockets
in defence of salvation—
lawfully lay to rest
all true feeling

pedagogy is orthodoxy is aristocracy
is hypocrisy!

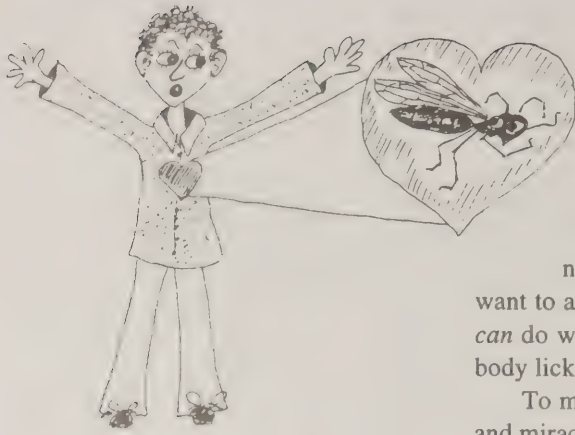
St. Valentine's Credo is Non-Credo:

we have a tongue
for talking, yes,
but first for tasting
we can tell the smell
of the skunk from the rose!
look here on this body
see how it moves
asymmetry is patterning
just outside your window
harmony is a never resting wind
beauty and roses are red
and violets are the blues
I sing before I'm dead

Boney Oscar
"unplugged"
be my valentine
'99

— R. Zukowski





The Little Wasp Inside

Most people like animals — or at least some animals. For instance, I think it is safer to say “everyone likes dogs” than it is to maintain that “everyone likes babies.” In my experience as the accompanying adult for both species, I have found that the dogs have had more universal appeal, especially when they were puppies, than the baby people had. I can assure you that my baby people were gorgeous specimens of the type and that those folks we encountered who were given to the adoration of baby people did adore mine. It’s just that this pool was limited pretty much to adult females. When I went around town with my puppy, people of all ages and sexes fell to their knees in public demonstrations of goofy, oftentimes delirious love.

I am as goofy and delirious as the next person when it comes to animals. In fact, I have something of a reputation for indiscrimination along these lines. There

is many a puppy lover out there who would not go the distance with me on, let’s say, slugs. You cannot pat a slug or whistle it to heel. A slug will not gaze lovingly up at you at mealtimes, at least not that you can notice, nor lick your hand. (Some might want to argue that the only thing a slug *can* do with a hand is lick it with a full body lick.)

To me a slug is a creature complex and miraculous. There are certain things about a slug which remind me of me: it moves around, it eats. A slug is born, goes through life doing its best, and then it dies. I can identify with these things, and it is endlessly interesting to me to see the subtle ways in which a slug does them differently from me.

In February, I don’t get to see too many slugs. Once in a while one will turn up, hibernating in the cool close folds of a cabbage just brought up from the cellar. But mostly we don’t get to see the little wondrous creatures of the garden and barnyard in winter, just the great big hairy ones. For this reason, we get a thrill over the occasional visitor, like the little slug sleeping in the cabbage, such as we might not experience in July.

The other night I was surprised to see a summer character making her way daintily across the billows of my bed. She was slim and dark, with six legs, and two busy antennae; she was armed. In the summer, if this lone mud-dauber wasp had wandered into the house, I would have captured her gently in a glass and

released her outside, to get on with her destiny. But in winter her destiny is a little harder for me to deal with. If I chuck her outside, I have determined that she will die, stay suspended in cold until spring, and then melt into the topsoil of the ground near my house. I am not ready to make that decision about her, that it is melting-into-topsoil time, so I airlift her over to my bureau and assist her onto a necklace which hangs from the mirror. I never wear it. She can climb around on it and see what other shape destiny takes. I don’t know where this will lead, but I don’t need to know that right now.

Years ago we had such a little wasp in our kitchen. He hung around the plants on the windowsill, especially a certain marigold which was infested with aphids. We noticed that the windowglass was spotted with clear sticky drops of “honeydew” splashed there by the aphids, and this wasp would visit the sweet droplets and lap at them with his little tongue. One time my uncle, a practical man, was visiting. He noticed a spider scuttling across our floor and was about to dispatch it when the whole family raised a great cry: NOOO! We LIKE spiders! “Okay,” says my uncle, refraining from rolling his eyes. He was way too good a guy to stoop to sarcasm. But he did wander over to the window of the marigold plant where he noticed the little wasp prospecting about. “Hello,” my uncle says politely, “and what’s *your* name?”

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That's the point. Around here we do tend to "name" the animals, and I use the word *animal* in its broadest sense, not limited to the big furry ones. We trap the little mice in the cupboard, keep them safe and fed until we get a warm day, and then transport them to a stone wall where there is by now a whole colony of expatriate deer mice all from the same family. I don't know their true living conditions, but I did give them plenty of birdseed, apple cores, and nesting material. Every time I put another mouse in the wall I leave off another care package.

Most people, even a certain percentage of the puppy and baby lovers, would swat the wasps and snap trap the mice. Those wasps and mice would be headed for meltdown and topsoil by now, and maybe some of mine will be, too. Maybe the other mice in the wall will have driven off the newcomers, to perish in the snow outside. Maybe the little wasp who was climbing on my necklace yesterday has fallen behind the bureau today because what she desperately needed was not an airlift but a sip of honeydew. All I can say is, I did the best I could under the circumstances, just as the slug, the mice, and the wasp do every minute of their lives. I am connected to them — in fact, they are part of me, somehow. If I didn't answer my uncle before, I can tell him now: "Her name? She is The Little Wasp Inside."

— Bonner J. McAllester

Monterey: A Place in Time Part 4

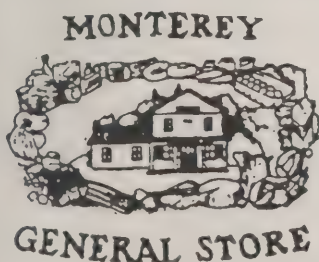
Monterey is a functional culture region in that it is a town body, incorporated, defined, and governed. It is also a vernacular culture region. It lies within other functional culture regions defined by regional school, county, and congressional districts as well as state and national functional culture regions. As a county, Berkshire is a functional culture region, running from Vermont to Connecticut, confined by the Taconic Range and the Berkshire Hills. It is the farthest county from the node of the state capital, Boston. As a formal or vernacular region it has no clear meaning, which can lead to conflicts and rivalries on the functional level. The proposed bypass plan of the 1960s is an example of the conflict that can arise when a functional region tries to impose its values on a vernacular region such as Monterey.

Other vernacular culture regions co-exist within Monterey, which pertain to geographic location (Lake Garfield Association, North Road Association, "hill town," "South Berkshire"), schooling (Undermountain, Steiner, BCD, or homeschooled), and lifestyle ("weekender" or "flatlander"). If a formal culture region is defined as one where people have one or more cultural traits in common, then we are part of the culture region defined by the English language. Beyond that the formal culture region is mostly of white, European heritage; the residents live mostly in houses built of

wood in a rural setting known for scenic beauty and an agrarian past. The Housatonic River Valley from Lenox to Ashley Falls, from Monterey to Alford, encompasses a formal culture region that can also be described as vernacular.

The settlement patterns of the earliest inhabitants were dictated by geography and necessity, proximity to water and food, climate and terrain. When the white settlers arrived, the division of land using a unit block and long lot models created the cadastral pattern that is still visible in the location of roads and in the border defining Beartown Forest and the Swann Forest. The actual settlement pattern adhered more closely to the topography, favoring high places on the north sides of roads. A node developed around sacred spaces, a meetinghouse, a school and two cemeteries. As late as 1836, this node supported a store. Over time, two new nodes developed around water power and commerce, eventually splitting apart the first node and drawing the population centers into the river valleys. While the periphery continued to be inhabited, many of the original homesteads were abandoned and roads discontinued.

The node that became Monterey center contained most of the commercial and industrial activities and the meetinghouse. The town's five cemeteries and nine schools were spread throughout the entire town. Today the meetinghouse and General Store still face each other across Route 23. The post office, library, and town offices are there, as well as the playground, the firehouse, and two auto repair shops. In the middle of town are



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four buildings owned by the Ray Tryon family: two houses, an unused "Tea-room," which in the past was a center of village social life, and the 70s-style brick-front garage that houses their construction company and heavy machinery. This centrality reflects the family's history and status in town. In *The Human Mosaic*, Sitwell and Bilash state: "The spatial organization of settlements and the architectural forms of buildings ... can be interpreted as the expression of values and beliefs of the people responsible for them."

Population continued to increase until the latter half of the 1800s, when the loss of manufacturing, postwar depression, and ecological damage from clear-cutting forced many people to migrate to the west. On the 1876 map, one counts under 150 dwellings. While the year-round population reached an all-time low in the 1920s, the town prospered because of a new demographic, tourism. At first these visitors were accommodated as lodgers, staying with families or in guest-houses; later they began buying up vacant houses and building around the lake.

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In 1950, there were 400 dwellings in Monterey, of which 133 were occupied year-round. Soon, people who were here only on weekends or in the summer supplied 55 percent of the tax revenue. Beginning in the 1970s, these "flatlanders" began to retire here, or their children took up residence. In addition a larger cultural phenomenon called a new generation of settlers "back to the land". Roads long abandoned were reopened, and the population began spreading back out into the hills. Records for 1975 show an increase to 587 dwellings, with only 228 occupied year-round, a 26 percent increase in seasonal residents. A record number of building permits (36) were issued between 1970 and 1974.

In 1990, of the 753 housing units in town 393, (52 percent) were seasonal dwellings. The census reports 805 residents, although the Town Clerk claims 912 were living in 323 units. Of these, 170 were under 18. In 1999, a population of 943 included only 119 students, of which 56 go to school out of the district. The number of seasonal housing units is estimated to be 424, based on a total of 515 units. The Town Assessor reports 11 units begun last year, 13 the year before that, an increase of 3 percent over two years. It seems fair to assume that this rate and pattern of growth will continue and accelerate within existing limits.

Beartown Forest comprises one third of the town's acreage, and other large tracts are held by the Land Trust and under agricultural preservation restrictions. A survey from 1985 described land use distribution by acreage: Agricultural 788; Forest 14,807; Wetland 499; Residential 864; Commercial 16; Industrial 0; Institutional 39; and Water 543. Compare this with an account made in 1802: "Nearly 300 acres were listed as 'high meadow,' 700 acres were in tillage, 1,300 in hay, and 1,500 in pasture.... Sixteen thousand acres were calculated to be unimproved, and an additional 4,500 were considered unimprovable swamps, rocky outcrops, or steep slopes" (*Monterey, A Local History*, p. 20).

The earliest farmers grew wheat, rye, corn, oats, barley and flax, as well as peas, beans, potatoes, buckwheat, pumpkins, hops, hemp, turnips, clover, and timothy. Some of these products suggest the workings of cultural integration. The settlers also raised apples, plums, and pears. Beef cattle, sheep, and milk cows were raised for use or trade. The Bidwells imported Holsteins from Europe to increase yield, and George Miner imported Jerseys to improve the color of the butter. Adaptive strategies were sustainable long enough to create a surplus. Subsistence farming gave way to a market economy. Cheese and butter, wool, maple syrup,



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and cider were added to the list of agricultural products for which Monterey consistently won awards.

Manufacturing was not confined to the center of town, but occurred wherever water power provided a viable site. Cheese boxes were reportedly made on Sandisfield Road, cotton twine near Brewer Pond, horn combs on Hupi Road, soapstone stoves and rat traps on River Road. A sawmill located nearby was successful enough for its owner, Clifford Brochu, to build one of the few stone houses in town (located near the intersection of Blue Hill Road and Route 23). Paper made of rye straw, cheese, leather, cider brandy, shingles, and potash were all made in town. There were cobblers, blacksmiths, tailors and wagonmakers.

The fifty years after the Civil War changed the way the town worked. Today manufacturing and the family farm are memories, primarily because mechanization and industrialization have made small enterprises noncompetitive. The landscape is not suited to large-scale farming, and water doesn't provide enough power. With the arrival of summer folk, employment came to rely increasingly on service, and later on the building trades.

Data from a 1985 survey show about half the residents in town were self-employed, though less than 5 percent of them were involved in farming activities. Year-round businesses included 7 small farms, 2 dairy farms, two private schools, 2 gas stations, 2 small grocery stores, 2 real estate firms, and 1 each liquor store, flower shop, beauty shop, exercise salon,

logging firm, and landscaping firm. Seasonal businesses added 6 summer camps, 3 antique shops, 2 construction companies, a motel, restaurant, art gallery, camping area and art workshop. This survey unfortunately does not detail artists, instrument makers, cabinetmakers, writers, and others who reflect the rich variety of life in the town at that time.

Today no gasoline is for sale in town and the package store is gone, although liquor is for sale at the General Store. There are 4 real estate companies; 16 residents are involved in health care and 3 are potters. The logging business, according to Jed Lipsky of Blue Hill Logging, relies on timber in Vermont and Maine more than local stands. Most residents who work in Monterey and environs earn their living by supporting the second home market as contractors, landscapers, and cleaners.

Gould Farm, a helping community, actively grows a large amount of produce and livestock for their own use. Lowland Farm, our last dairy, has diversified into maple syrup, Christmas trees, raspberries, hay, beef for their own consumption, and landscaping. A newer enter-



Glynis Oliver

Corashire Cemetery

prise is a successful goat farm, which produces cheese for a niche market. Several small operations produce hay, maple syrup, pigs, or fresh eggs. The few farmers in town routinely cultivate hay and corn on land belonging to others. The affluent new arrivals have horses that need hay and don't mind paying more for local products which reinforce their perception of life in a rural environment.

(To be continued.)

— Michele Miller

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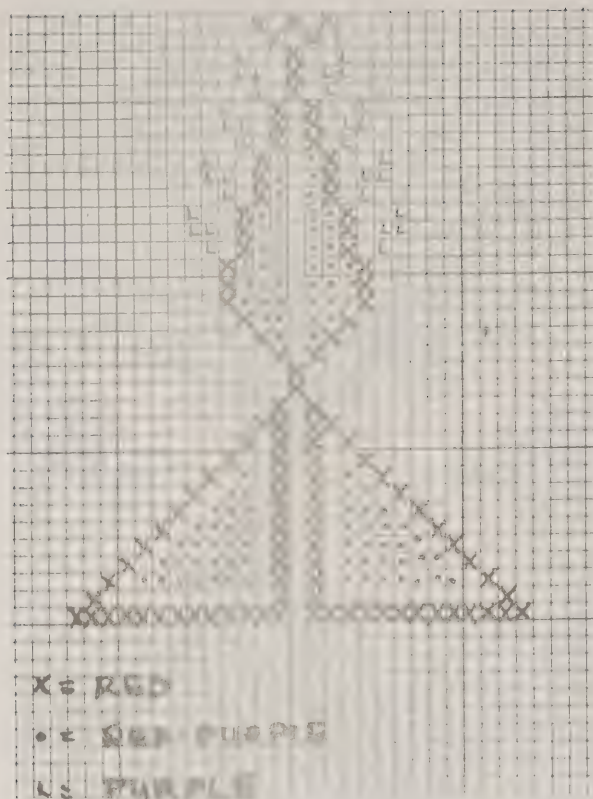


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The Thread of the Story Palestinian Sampler

Last April, Heidi [Mielke] had the opportunity to spend time in Jerusalem. She came home inspired by the experience, changed by the experience, changed by the job she assumed last fall as pastor of the [Mennonite] Church. When she began to put her [new] stamp on the rooms at the [Mennonite] House of the beautiful things [she] saw on the walls was a needlework [project] she brought back from Israel.

At about thirty-four inches long and twenty inches wide, the wall hanging is a dramatic combination of bright color and a simple black ground. It is entirely cross-stitched, primarily in three shades of red. The occasional accents of emerald, sapphire, and amethyst only come into focus on second or third glance.

A sampler of traditional motifs for Palestinian women's clothing, the patterns range from starkly geometric stars to sinuously organic vines of roses. The dizzying effect of so many motifs in such a small area is modified by the piece's overall impression of waves of red on black.

For Heidi, the piece is a testament to the hope that peace on Earth is more than a sentiment put by after the adrenaline rush of the holiday season, along with last year's calendar. For her, it's tangible evidence of the cooperative economics that are possible when people risk reaching beyond comfortable tribal and religious borders in a spirit of mutual understanding. After all, she bought her Palestinian wall hanging in a shop run by Mennonites in the Israeli sector of Jerusalem, near the American Colony Hotel.

— MaryKate Jordan

Personal Notes

January Birthdays Part II: Happy Birthday to **Emma Mielke** on January 26th. February Birthdays: **Gige O'Connell** on the 1st, **Mark Makuc** and **Donna Trumbull** on the 2nd, **Mike Mielke** on the 7th, **Claude "Tim" Burke** and **Bob Rausch** on the 9th, **Cristina Temenos** and **Barbara Bonner** on the 10th, **Jack Jefferson** and **Lanny Lanoue** on the 14th, **Dave Gauthier** on the 15th, **Maryellen Brown** and **Arnold Pratt** on the 16th, **Kimberly Gero** on the 18th, **Rachael Rodgers** on the 20th, **Georgianna Eschen** on the 21st, **Maggie Clawson** and **Dick Tryon** on the 22nd, **Jim Edelman** on the 23rd, **Mark Amstead** on the 26th, **Paul Makuc**, **Morgan Schick**, **Kayla Snyder** on the 27th.

Anniversary Greetings to **Gerry and Marge McMahon** on the 7th, **Arnold and Judy Hayes** on the 13th, **Don and Pat Amstead** on the 27th.

Looking Back

1971: The contest for the proposed new seal for the Town of Monterey was very successful and the winning design will be announced in March.

1980: Four students from the County Quiz Team of Mt. Everett High School were sent to Schenectady, NY to compete in the Quiz Show "Answers Please," shown on WRGB TV in late December/early January. The students were **Mark Makuc**, 12th grade, Captain, **Doreen Reynolds**, 12th grade, **John Makuc**, 11th grade, and **Jim Makuc**, 10th grade. The team . . . competed three separate times, winning each of the first two by 50 points and losing the third by 25 points.

1990: The Park Commission organized the first annual Monterey Cup Tournament, a recreational ice hockey championship.

— Deborah Mielke

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Another View of History

To the Editor:

It is hard to accept the validity of a "cultural geographical history" when facts known to you are presented incorrectly, and when you have pointed out these inconsistencies to the author only to find that on printing her history she has not researched or corrected her errors. I refer to Michele Miller's Monterey history currently serialized in the *Monterey News* and would like to correct her presentation of the "facts" of ownership of the Monterey General Store in the early 60s, as well as a couple of other miscellaneous details.

1. In 1955 Julius Miner sold the store to Charles Slater of Tyngham. Mr. Slater divided the land and built a free standing post office building which opened in 1960. This removed the postal income from the store, which had previously housed the post office. To this day, Mr. Slater rents his building to the Postal Service. Mr. Slater subsequently sold the store to the Crochieres of Becket, who in turn sold it to the Jervas family in the fall of 1962. A poor economy, easy access to Great Barrington, lack of funding and the loss

of the postal income all conspired to the downfall of our venture. To say that the store's hard times were due to "indifferent" management is judgmental and not based on any fact known to the historian.

2. I can so clearly remember the day that Monterey voted to end its prohibition against the sale of liquor. Julius Miner came into the store for one of his twice daily visits and was most distraught over this turn of events. I felt a slight twinge of guilt as I just voted for the first time in Monterey. This therefore means that the vote was not in 1962 as I had just arrived that fall, it was probably 1963.

3. It was always my understanding, borne as fact by the designation on their gravestones, that Miss Nina and Miss Della were cousins, not sisters. This fact can of course be verified by checking with current members of the Tryon family.

Primarily, these errors are not errors of opinion, but show a lack of diligence in research. The fact that the sale dates of the store were pointed out to Miss Miller and she did not make the correction suggests that perhaps she is indifferent to the truth. I hope that future historians will take heed and check and recheck their information before presenting it as fact.

—Carolee Jervas

Ouch!

To the Editor:

OUCH! I think Carolee Jervas was a little harsh in her judgement of the report that has been appearing in the *Monterey News* and of me as its author. I never presented myself as a historian, but as a student who wrote a research paper for a class. In fact I did quite a lot of research and talked to many people in trying to reconcile the different versions of the truth which have already appeared in print. As to the version which appeared in the *Monterey News*, it did not contain the correction Ms. Jervas gave me verbally because that existed only on the printed copy from which I read at the Historical Society meeting. The uncorrected version printed in the *Monterey News* was mailed to Will Marsh for me while I was out of the country and long after I had stopped thinking about the paper. I'm sorry that Ms. Jervas felt my use of the word "indifferent" reflected poorly on her efforts. That was not my intention.

As to the other points Ms. Jervas makes, neither of them has been brought to my attention before and I have no comment on them. In my favor, I will say that many people have expressed their enjoyment of the report, and it is my feeling that anything that makes people think about our town is for the good. I do hope that Ms. Jervas's passion for the truth will not be confined to trying to disentangle the past but will play a role in the present and future of our beloved Monterey.

—Michele Miller

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I will meet with you at your home in Monterey.

Reader's Review: Good Music

I just love to hear someone tell about a book, movie or CD they have just discovered that totally delights them. I take it as a generous gift. Not only do I get the enjoyment of being in the presence of a delighted person, I get a recommendation that (if I can remember to write it down immediately) I can be guided by next time I am in the library, book, video or music store. I think we should have a new feature in the *Monterey News* that passes along such jewels, so I am going to go first with hope that others will follow.

The nature of my work on the farm makes it difficult for me to fit in as many books or movies as I'd like. If I sit down, I tend to doze off. But music is a different story. There is plenty of opportunity in a working day to enjoy music. We have a CD player in the milking parlor and a tape player in the cheese room. All the various people who milk goats here bring their music to the farm; there is often quite a diverse collection on the shelf.

One day last July, Steve Edmunds (married to Lew Scheffey's sister Cornelia) stopped in to buy some goat cheese to take home with him to Berkeley, California. He noticed our music stash and generously added to it. He left a tape and a note saying that he hoped we'd enjoy it. I enjoyed it a great deal! It is the sort of thing I can listen to again and again, and I have found myself singing lines and phrases at odd times.

Clym Oliver



When I spoke with him to thank him, Steve said that not only is he the singer, but that he had written all the songs when he was in his 30s, and as a 50th-birthday present to himself, he had them produced (by Laurie Lewis — turns out, Bonner informs me, that I have another tape I like a lot that she was involved with along with Molly Mason and some other women). Just the kind of story I love! I kept playing the tape. The music is melodically comfortable and soothing (sorry, I'm no music critic), and the lyrics touch my heart. A singer/songwriter type of album with a hint of western style somehow woven in. It hung around the barn and my car and the house and was just starting to act like a very old tape when Steve called to order cheese for an annual harvest/crush celebration they have at their winery (Edmunds-St. John, sold at

the General Store here in town). He said that a CD was now available and I bought three copies to give as Christmas gifts; of course, I was one of the lucky recipients.

The title is *Steve Edmunds: Lonesome on the Ground*. Steve says that the CD is available through his website: www.edmundsstjohn.com. It can also be ordered by phoning (510) 981-1510. The cost is \$15, plus \$2 shipping/handling.

— Susan Sellew

Who's next? Ed.

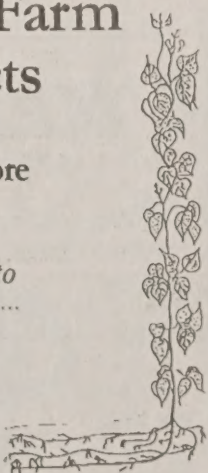
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Calendar

The skating rink is open, weather permitting. Schedule is posted at the rink and at Town Hall.

Every Thursday: People's Pantry, 11:30-1:00 p.m., St. Peter's Parish, 16 Russell St., Great Barrington. Free food for the needy.

Thursday, February 8: Full Moon.

Friday, February 9: Monterey Food Co-op order distribution and pick-up at Meetinghouse basement, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Wednesday, February 14: Valentine's Day; remember your honey.

Sunday, February 18: Performance of *The Fever*, 7 p.m., Meetinghouse basement. Monterey resident Zed Pine will perform Wallace Shawn's one-actor play. Admission is by donation; proceeds will go to Heifer Project International. See p. 4 for details.

Monday, February 19: Presidents' Day, Town Offices closed.

Tuesday, February 20: Free blood pressure clinic, 9-10:30 a.m., church basement, administered by Visiting Nurses

Contributors

We are grateful to the following people for their recent contributions:

Gertrude Leuchs
Erwin & May Clark
Richard Pargament
Daniel Zweig & Sally Petrick
Jonathan & Caroline Webster
Jeffrey Rubin & Leslie Naughton
Richard Ricklefs
Herbert & Sheila Marton
Tim Walter

Assoc. (Please note the change in location.)

Saturday, February 24: Square and contra dancing, 8:30-11:30 p.m. at the Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield, Mass. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Peter Stix. All dances are taught, and beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments at intermission. Adults \$5, children \$2. Information 413-528-9385.

The Observer

December 26-January 25

High temp. (1/17) 39°
Low temp. (1/23) 3°
Avg. high temp. 29.2°
Avg. low temp. 12.9°
Avg. temp. 21.1°
Total precipitation
(rain and melted snow) 2.37"
Snowfall 28"
Precipitation occurred on 15 days

(For comparison, for the same period a year ago the average temperature was 21.0° and the snowfall was 20.5".)

Wednesday, February 28: Ash Wednesday pancake supper, 6 p.m., Meetinghouse basement, followed by a service of ashes.

Friday, March 2: Special Town Meeting to discuss and vote on establishing a Board of Health separate from Selectboard, 7:00 p.m., Firehouse.

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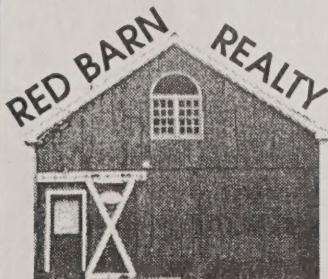
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Contributions from local artists this month: George Emmons, p. 9; MaryKate Jordan, p. 16; Bonner McAllester, p. 12; Glynis Oliver, pp. 2, 11.

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